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AUTHENTIC MEMOIRS
OF
Captain PAUL JONES,
THE AMERICAN CORSAIR.

CONTAINING,

His numerous Exploits, and surprizing revolutions of Fortune in ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, FRANCE, AMERICA, THE WEST-INDIA ISLANDS, &c.

AND AN

Account of the late ENGAGEMENT between the Captains PEARSON, of the SERAPIS, and PIERCY, of the COUNTESS of SCARBOROUGH, and the American Commander, PAUL JONES, with some other interesting Parts of the Work, were communicated by

Mr. THEOPHILUS SMART,

Who escaped from Jones's Vessel a few Minutes before she sunk.

L O N D O N:

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all Bookfellers in Town and Country.

W. Musgrave!





AUTHENTIC MEMOIRS
O F
Captain PAUL JONES.

THERE is, perhaps, no department in literature that presents fewer, and less formidable difficulties to surmount, than biography; a knowledge of facts is the ground on which the superstructure is to be raised; extraordinary exertions of genius are not necessary; but to acquit himself with reputation, the writer must possess a talent for arrangement.

We shall anticipate the censure to which we are conscious the following pages will be exposed, on account of some chronological errors. Similar facts have been communicated from different quarters; and as their dates did not always correspond, some transpositions have doubtless occurred.

Characters that are rendered eminent by their vices or virtues, should not be lost in silent oblivion: on the contrary, what is worthy imitation, should be depicted with the warmth of amiable delineation that is necessary to animate the mind to the attainment of excellence; while vice should be exposed in all the glaring colours of her natural

tural deformity, that she may inspire a just contempt and abhorrence.

Wholly divested of party prejudices, candour shall guide the pen through this narrative;—we shall

—— “ Nothing extenuate,
“ Nor set down aught in malice.”

It will be found that our design is not to promulgate any particular system of political doctrine.—On that subject our readers will form their own judgment. It shall be our task to deliver a plain narrative of facts, occasionally deducing therefrom such observations as may naturally arise out of the subject—and if opportunities of commendation do not frequently occur, the misfortune will lay with the man who is the subject of this pamphlet, and no censure will, on that account, be due to the writer, who will now no longer obtrude upon the time of the public, but proceed immediately to the narrative; only further premising, that the materials for this work were supplied by some persons who were intimately connected with our hero's family during the early time of his life, and by others, whose misfortune it was to be the immediate witnesses of the most material incidents that occurred to him in a series of many years.

We shall avail ourselves of every opportunity of commendation: but we fear such will seldom occur; for the man who is the subject of this pamphlet, has been in a course of life, wherein it was not possible to act in a manner to challenge commendation.

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Notwithstanding our hero has acquired so eminent a degree of popularity, by the surprising revolutions of fortune he has experienced, and the remarkable exploits he has achieved, we conceive that it will not be necessary to trace back a long line of his ancestry; for our enquiries have not been able to discover any traits in the character of his progenitors, the exposure of which would contribute to the gratification of public curiosity: suffice it then to say, that his parents were natives of Scotland, and that soon after their marriage, they settled at Dunbar, where they obtained a decent subsistence; the man following the occupation of a gardener, to which he had been bred, and his wife assisting him in his work, as occasion required, and at other times employing herself in washing and needle-work, or such other kind of domestic female business as the neighbourhood afforded.

His skill in his business, and character for sobriety, industry, and honesty, procured him a recommendation to James Taylor, Esq. of Whitehaven, in Cumberland. Leaving his wife at Dunbar, he proceeded to Whitehaven, and was engaged by Mr. Taylor, in the capacity of gardener.

Finding his situation in this gentleman's family perfectly agreeable, he hired a small house, and sent for his wife, who had taken possession of her new tenement only a short time, when she was delivered of a son, who was baptised by the name of John. At an early period of infancy, the boy afforded evident proofs of a disposition "tetchy and wayward." His petulant and vindictive temper
daily

daily became more intolerable, to which the fond indulgence of his parents materially contributed.

Mr. Pope says, "As the twig is bent, the tree will shoot." And the elegant Thompson has the following lines :

— " Infant reason grows apace, and calls
 " For the kind hand of an assiduous care.
 " Delightful task! to rear the tender thought,
 " To teach the young idea how to shoot ;
 " To pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind ;
 " To breathe th'enlivening spirit, and to fix
 " The generous purpose in the glowing breast."

Had a timely check been put upon the turbulent spirit of the boy, the vices that seem to have been inherent in his nature, might, in all probability, have been greatly corrected, though, perhaps, not wholly eradicated. One of the most deplorable infirmities incident to human nature is, that the prejudices of education, and bad habits, contracted in the early periods of life, form such deep impressions upon the mind, that notwithstanding the accidents of life may produce serious reflections, attended by the strongest conviction of the abominable deformity of guilt, yet the best resolutions, though they will suggest a temporary reformation, are not always sufficient to secure us from relapsing into the errors to which we have been so long familiarized. How careful, then, should we be, in guarding against the indulgence of vicious habits, since the influence of custom has nearly equal power over our hearts,

hearts, with the impulses implanted in us by nature.

Let us here seriously exhort parents to be exceedingly solicitous in suppressing all evil propensities in their children; and beg them to attend to the moral that is inculcated in the above quotation from Thompson. Had Mr. Paul, and his wife, experienced the *delightful task* of training their son with *the kind band of an assiduous care*; had they reared *the tender thought*, and taught *the young idea how to shoot*; had they poured *fresh instructions o'er the mind*, and fixed *the generous purpose in the breast* of their son, his activity, and enterprising spirit, might have distinguished him as a conspicuous ornament to that society which now justly execrates him as a monster of ingratitude and cruelty.

We wish not, however, to cast too severe a censure upon the old people; in excuse of whom may be pleaded their almost total want of education; their indigent station in life; and their ignorance of the operations of the human heart. They certainly erred in the management of their son's education; but their error was the effect of parental tenderness and intellectual deficiency. It is sufficiently lamentable that, generally considered, that the children of the lower classes of the inhabitants of these kingdoms are so extremely liable to be led into the paths of iniquity. Tho' a little school-learning is given them, the principles of morality are wholly disregarded. The parents being themselves ignorant, see not the necessity of, nor indeed have they a capacity for opening the prospect of knowledge to their offspring,

spring, the amiable parts of whose dispositions remain uncultivated, while their evil propensities are countenanced and encouraged by the examples that are continually exposed to their observation.

It may not be here improper to introduce a few remarks in relation to our public charities. It will be universally admitted, that the greatest benefits would result from establishing our public schools in the country, rather than persevering in the pernicious custom of keeping them in the metropolis; and that the only impediment to this measure is, the inconvenience that, for a certain time, must necessarily be experienced. The health and morals of youth are points more immediately claiming attention than the article of learning.

The masters of our free-schools pretend to no jurisdiction over the scholars but in the usual hours of business; the rest of the day, and perhaps during a part of the night, they are exposed to the most dangerous temptations; for the greatest part of them are destitute of friends, or have only such as, from their indispensable avocations, are precluded from all opportunity of confining their children within the proper limits. May it not be presumed, that many fall victims to breathing an atmosphere constantly impregnated with poisonous vapours?

The children of the poor is the most valuable inheritance that we can possibly bequeath to posterity; for upon them must principally depend the safety of government, and the advancement of commerce and manufactures.

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However people may affect to despise posthumous fame, there are very few, I believe, who do not wish to leave the world some memorial of their existence. Let it be the pride of the present generation to encounter a popular error that has received the sanction of time. As heroes are held forth the guardians of their country, let us, by one generous effort, entitle ourselves to a more glorious distinction. Let it not be said, that in our time the race of Britons degenerated: let us rescue posterity from the danger of being as remarkable for mental and corporeal debility, as our ancestors were for muscular strength, and a correspondent vigour of mind.

But to return from this digression. Young Paul was put to school in Whitehaven, to be instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic; and his master exerted his utmost endeavours to instil into him the first rudiments of those branches of education, but with very little effect. So unruly, untractable, and addicted to every species of mischief was the boy, that soon after he had attained his seventh year, the school-master was under the necessity of dismissing him, lest the other scholars should be corrupted by his example. He was then placed under another master in the same neighbourhood, with whom he remained but a short time, and that with very little advantage.

Soon after leaving the second school, he connected himself with a number of idle and dissolute boys, and joined them in the robbery of gardens and orchards. These juvenile indiscretions were practised a considerable time without discovery; but at length they led to the commission
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of depredations among the poultry of the neighbouring farmers and gentlemen, and many other acts of more capital delinquency.

Young Paul's character was now become shamefully notorious, and he was considered as a public nuisance to the country for several miles round. The youths of sober and discreet principles carefully shunned his acquaintance, as they would have done a pestilence; and he associated only with those of the most profligate and abandoned manners.

His parents pursued every measure their imaginations could devise for reclaiming their ungracious son: but their tears, threats and entreaties, were equally disregarded; and they were terribly alarmed, lest his irregular courses should involve him in some calamity, from which their interest would not be sufficient to extricate him.

His ingenuity in contriving schemes of mischief, his dexterity in executing them, and his resolute temper, obtained him the name of Captain, among his disorderly companions, to whom he behaved with such insufferable insolence, that they at length resolved to hold no further acquaintance with him.

It was with singular satisfaction that his father observed some signs of reformation in him; and he thought this a favourable opportunity of procuring him some kind of employment, which he conceived might be the means of detaching his mind from the shameful courses he had so long pursued.

The old man, who was much respected by his employer, Mr. Taylor, prevailed upon that gentleman

tleman to engage his son as a helper in his stables; and in this station he observed a tolerably decent behaviour for several weeks.

His father and mother now congratulated themselves on the happy prospect of their son's reformation, which they supposed could not fail of being fully effected, since he had gained an establishment in a respectable family, where no bad examples were to be seen, and where his conduct would be under their own immediate observation, as his business, and the rules of Mr. Taylor's house, would necessarily preclude him from all opportunities of renewing his acquaintance with his former associates. But all their hopes were disappointed.

Being a lad of remarkable activity, and quick apprehension, he, in a short time, acquired the reputation of being a useful servant: and presuming on the consequence he imagined he had obtained, his insolence and vanity increased to an insufferable degree.

He seemed to derive a peculiar satisfaction from putting the domestic animals about the house to the most extreme torture; and if his fellow servants remonstrated against the barbarity of his practices, he uttered the most horrid blasphemies, and insulted them in a manner that proved him to be more accomplished in wickedness than could be imagined in a youth of his years.

He had, however, a very narrow escape of meeting a severe punishment for one instance of his cruelty. Having been gently reprimanded by one of his fellow servants, in order to obtain revenge for the supposed insult, he cut out the

tongue, and thrust a piece of sharp iron into the body of a dog, of which the man was particularly fond. The creature, through excruciating torture, almost immediately went mad, and seized young Paul by the skirt of his coat, at which instant the man who had offended him came into the stable, and killed the dog with a pitchfork. To be relieved in so critical a conjuncture from a threatened calamity of so dreadful a nature, must have inspired with gratitude any breast that was capable of so generous a feeling: but instead of due acknowledgment for so essential a piece of service, the man was the constant object of Paul's ridicule and insult.

At about seventeen years of age, our hero debauched three young women, servants in the neighbourhood; and two of them became pregnant. He has since taken great pride in boasting that he had the address to prevail upon the women to swear the children to an opulent farmer, though he was firmly persuaded that the man had not been engaged in a criminal intercourse with either of them.

How greatly was the guilt of seduction aggravated, by his urging the unhappy girls to the commission of perjury!—How unprincipled must that man be, who can wish to relieve himself from the disagreeable consequences of his own villainy, at the expence of the innocent!—He that can act so contrary to the laws of nature as to disclaim his own issue, must be qualified for the perpetration of every species of iniquity.

Though Mr. Taylor was acquainted with many particulars of the youth's behaviour, from a regard

gard to his father, he still retained him in his service, and even took frequent opportunities of expostulating with him on the impropriety of his conduct. This condescension, so far from producing any amendment, had a contrary effect; for it served to excite further instances of his ingratitude, which he manifested by treating his master's friendly advice with contempt and ridicule.

To indulge the wanton cruelty of his disposition, he frequently whipped the horses, while they were in the stable, till they were almost irritated to madness, and he generally continued this exercise till he was either interrupted, or, through fatigue, was no longer able to hold the instrument of his cruelty.

Being one morning engaged in this barbarous practice, he received a slight kick on the thigh from a fine young gelding, that was a particular favourite of Mr. Taylor's; in consequence of this, he fetched a knife from the dwelling-house, and stabbed the horse in several parts of his body, and the creature died in a short time.

When the above circumstance came to Mr. Taylor's knowledge, he dismissed Paul, informing him, that the whole line of his conduct had been so extremely exceptionable, that he could not, consistently with the dictates of his conscience, give him such a character as would recommend him to another service.

He now engaged with an inn-keeper near Whitehaven, as a post-chaise driver; but on account of his disobliging and quarrelsome temper, and his cruelty to the horses under his care, he was in a short time discharged from this employment.

Young

Young Paul now returned to his parents; some short time after which his father entered into the service of the Earl of Selkirk, in the capacity of gardener. He had worked some months as an assistant to his father before his true character became known to the family. The various artifices he put in practice for seducing one of the servant girls proving abortive, he actually attempted the violation of her chastity by force, and had nearly accomplished his purpose, when the Earl (who had been walking in the garden) alarmed by the cries of a person in distress, came into the dairy-house, and rescued the young woman from her intentional ravisher.

The Earl severely reprimanded him, and threatened him with a prosecution; but at length yielded to his entreaties, and granted him a pardon, on condition of his solemnly promising to conduct himself with more propriety in future.

Not many days after the above transaction, great complaints were made to the steward of the household, respecting young Paul; and these were so frequently repeated, that the steward sent him a written discharge from the Earl's service; and an order to come to his office to receive what wages were due to him. He took no notice of the order of dismissal, and the steward, therefore, personally insisted upon his immediate departure. As he still refused to comply, the matter was communicated to the Earl, who ordered the delinquent into his presence, and questioned him in relation to the complaints that had been exhibited against him. His answers were so disrespectful and insulting, that the Earl was betrayed
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into a momentary forgetfulness of the dignity of his character, and actually struck this unworthy servant; who departed, breathing forth the most violent denunciations of vengeance.—It will be found in the course of these pages, that though many years had elapsed, his desire of wreaking revenge upon the Earl suffered no abatement.

Soon after leaving the service of the Earl of Selkirk, Paul formed an acquaintance with a party of smugglers, who observing him to be a young fellow of an active and enterprising spirit, and of a desperate resolution, they invited him to become a party in an exploit they had under contemplation. Much ingenuity in the arts of persuasion was not necessary to obtain his compliance: and a meeting being in a few days held for resolving on the most probable plan for accomplishing the intended expedition, our young adventurer discovered so remarkable a degree of acuteness in improving the proposed scheme of speculation, that the smugglers unanimously admitted him into their association; not as a servant, as was first proposed, but as a sharer in whatever booty they should acquire.

He remained some months with this gang of desperadoes, during which time he saved upwards of two hundred pounds; but being deserted by his companions on account of his violent, quarrelsome, and revengeful spirit, lived in an idle, dissolute manner at Whitehaven, Sunderland, Shields, and some other towns in the north, till his money was exhausted. After this he committed several highway and other robberies, for one of which was indicted and tried, (we believe

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at Lancaster) but acquitted in defect of evidence.

Paul now engaged himself as a foremast man on board a Sunderland vessel, and being afterwards in the same capacity on board several traders belonging to Shields and Whitby, he acquired the reputation of an expert seaman, and gained a very accurate knowledge of the northern coast.

Being impressed on board a man of war, he availed himself of the first opportunity to escape, and a second time commenced a smuggler. After an unsuccessful cruize of a few weeks, he and his companions landed on the coast of Suffex, and Paul took up his residence at a farmer's in the neighbourhood of Brighthelmstone, whose daughter he in a short time married, and received with her a fortune of about three hundred pounds.

Notwithstanding that his wife was a most amiable young woman, Paul abandoned her in a few weeks, and entering into contract with some of his former associates, purchased a vessel for the purpose of carrying on the illegal practice of smuggling, and assumed the command of her himself, appointing such of his companions officers as he knew, from experience, to be able seamen.

His crew consisted of fifteen persons (himself included) and the vessel was provided with every kind of ammunition and necessary for hazarding desperate adventures. This gang of resolute desperadoes proved a most formidable annoyance to the trade of England, Scotland, and Ireland.— They plundered several of our West India ships, but their most capital depredations were committed
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on the coasts of Ireland and Scotland. Some days after having made booty of the most valuable part of the cargo of one of our homeward-bound Baltic ships, Paul was overtaken by so violent a storm, that he was under the necessity of ordering his guns to be thrown overboard; and the vessel springing a leak the next day, he judged it expedient to have the main mast cut away, lest she should be water-logged. During the violence of the storm, this man behaved in the most outrageous and blasphemous manner that can be conceived, and for some slight instance of neglect to his orders, he shot his lieutenant through the heart, and after stripping off the cloathes of the deceased, threw the body overboard.

With great difficulty they navigated vessel, which was in a most deplorably shattered condition, to Bologne, in France, where they sold their cargo at a very low price; the greatest part of the goods being so damaged as to be of little value. The hotel where Paul took up his lodgings was kept by a young widow, a native of Ireland, to whom our adventurer made overtures of marriage; but these she declined; qualifying her denial, however, with an intimation, that she might yield to his intreaties, if he could convince her that he was intitled to the property that he had assured her he possessed in England.

He remained about three months at Bologne, during which time he became so deeply enamoured of the fair Hibernian *maitress du cabaret*, that he deposited two hundred guineas with her, as a security of his speedy return, and embarked for England with a view of renewing his illicit practices,

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and continuing them till he should obtain property sufficient to insure him a favourable reception from the widow.

He first went to Dover, and then to the Isle of Man, where he hired a house, and assumed the character of a merchant; and indeed his dealings were considerable among the smugglers. Having employed a deputy to transact his business in the Isle of Man, he proceeded to Sunderland, where he was in a short time joined by ten of his former accomplices, whom he had left in France, and they contrived a scheme for running away with an armed vessel, which had been fitted out by a company of merchants to act against the Barbary corsairs.

Bold, and dangerous as the above undertaking was, they actually succeeded; and it was supposed that the vessel was lost, as when she was seized there were only two men and a boy on board, whom it is supposed the robbers murdered. Their first expedition was to the coast of Ireland, on different parts of which they landed, and plundered several gentlemen's houses of plate, jewels, money, and other valuable effects.

They now steered towards the Sussex coast, and while they were attempting to effect a landing, they observed one of the king's armed cutters within a league and a half of shore. By taking advantage of a thick fog that rose about the close of the day, they proceeded further along the coast, and disembarked with some of their most valuable effects; soon after which they were surprised by a party of Custom-house officers, and a desperate contest ensued, which lasted near an hour, when victory was declared in favour of the smugglers.

glers. In the affray, one of Paul's men, named Thomas Shaw, was so desperately wounded that he died on the following day, and one of the Custom-house officers was disabled in his right arm.

Fearing the country would be alarmed, and that vessels would be dispatched in pursuit of him, they put to sea with all possible expedition, and directed their course towards the Isle of Man, where they procured a supply of ammunition and provisions, and then sailed again with a view of plundering some merchant ships bound for England, on board of which they had received intelligence was gold and silver to a considerable amount. They met with only one of these ships, and that not one of the most richly laden. In a few weeks they committed depredations upon several vessels, particularly two belonging to Bristol; and Paul finding himself entitled to a share amounting to upwards of five hundred pounds, determined now to pursue his amour at Bologne.

When he was on the point of disembarking at Port l'Orient, he resigned all claim to the vessel and her appurtenances to his companions; binding them, however, in a solemn oath, that they should deal with him, only, in such articles as were proper for sale at Bologne, and the Isle of Man.

Having supped, and spent the greatest part of the night in a joyous manner on board the vessel, Paul took leave of his friends, apologizing to them respectively, for many instances of severe treatment they had received from him: alleging in excuse of his conduct, that a strong idea of the necessity of exact discipline and due subordination

among people of their profession, had compelled him to exert his authority on some occasions, in a manner that they might, perhaps, deem tyrannical; adding, that the constant success they had met with, would, he hoped, be considered as a sufficient justification of his conduct. The wealth they had acquired under his command, and the generosity he had displayed in giving up the vessel to their joint possession, disposed them to join in a declaration, that they entirely acquitted him of all blame on account of the several parts of his conduct which they had before considered as deserving reproach.

Paul lay that night on shore, and in the morning, after sending his comrades a present of twelve dozen of wine, and a liberal supply of fresh provisions, set out for Bologne. On his arrival he was heartily welcomed by the widow, with whom he had held a correspondence by letter during the several months of his absence. In about four days they were married; and having assumed the character of *maitre d'hotel*, he gave the principal customers of the house an elegant entertainment, and among the poorer sort he made a liberal distribution of wine, spirits, and ROAST BEEF. In this last instance he paid one mark of respect to Old England—but further on this head we say not.

For several weeks his behaviour was so affable and condescending, and the articles in which he dealt so good of their respective kinds, and so moderate in price, that the custom of the house surprisingly increased. But nature had not formed him to keep within the bounds of moderation.—

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The idea of being possessed of property sufficient to render him independent of business, and the prospect of greater riches, inflated his pride to that degree, that he was no longer able to act under the mask of humility that had for some time disguised the natural turbulence of his disposition.

He abruptly interfered in the conversation in which the frequenters of his house was engaged; obtruded his own dogmatical observations; and if the company declined an immediate acquiescence in them, he insulted them in the most abusive language that the most depraved imagination could possibly suggest.

Disgusted at his brutal conduct, his customers sought other places of public entertainment, where they could be treated with civility and respect. The evident decay of his business inflamed his groundless rage to a pitch of the utmost extravagance; and in all probability, his wife would have fallen a sacrifice to the impetuosity of his temper, had not the meekness and amiable tenderness of her disposition, been capable of giving some degree of moderation to his restless, violent, and impatient spirit.

About this period he received information that the Isle of Man was about to be annexed to the crown of Great Britain; and judging it necessary to put his affairs in that island on a more eligible footing, before the proposed regulation could take place, he repaired thither, leaving his wife to conduct the business of the hotel.

A few hours after he had embarked, the vessel was accosted by the gang of smugglers with whom he had parted at Port l'Orient, but upon his appearing

pearing upon deck, and waving his hand, they immediately altered their course. He made the first entry of licensed goods transported from England into the Isle of Man, and his name stands first in the Custom-house books at Douglas.

He again went to Bologne, and for some time carried on an extensive trade with different parties of smugglers. Upon the decease of his wife, he again went to the Isle of Man, and transacted some business in the legal way, the better to elude the suspicion of his being engaged in contraband dealings.

When any capital enterprize was resolved on, he frequently took the command of a smuggling vessel; and on these occasions it was seldom that he did not prove successful. He came to England three or four times every year, in order to settle with his agents, and to dispose of goods. In one of these trips the following incident occurred, which we mention, because it is highly expressive of the degenerate character of the man: Paul requested one of his fellow passengers to oblige him in some trifling circumstance, and the stranger was about to comply; but not being so expeditious as the impatient temper of the other required, he actually clapt a loaded pistol to his head, and drew the trigger; but the weapon fortunately flashed in the pan, and no damage was sustained.

In consequence of this act of extravagance, the crew of the vessel made preparations for confining Paul, supposing him to be a lunatic; but he fought in a most desperate manner against five men, three of whom he wounded so terribly that
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their lives were for several days judged to be in the most imminent danger. He then addressed himself to the people, by whom he was surrounded, informing them that he was not afflicted with the infirmity which they attributed to him, and that the rash attempt he had made, proceeded from a sudden and unaccountable start of passion, from the like of which he would guard himself in future; concluding, however, with an emphatic denunciation of instant death to such as should offer any further violence to his person.

By what furious and savage passions does this man seem to have been actuated through the whole course of his existence. Brutes have an instinctive faculty, resembling that of reason, which enables them to recollect and foresee events. The superior power of reason is the distinguishing characteristic of man—but how small a portion of this quality has fallen to the lot of the man, the black catalogue of whose transactions we are now recording!—or rather how infamously does he degrade the society of which he is a member, by the most gross abuses of the gifts of nature. He exalts his passions into tremendous tyrants, and debases reason into a vile, abject, and grovelling slave. How insignificant a remove is he above the brute creation!—The distinction consists only in the power of speech, and the external figure of humanity.

Paul having amassed upwards of two thousand pounds by the most iniquitous practices, considered that his situation was very precarious, as his avaricious turn of mind had led him to take great advantages of several of the smugglers with whom

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he dealt, some of whom he apprehended might, at length, be provoked to lodge information against him on account of the illegal traffic he had so long pursued. He therefore determined to sell off what effects he had in the Isle of Man, and repair to London: but before he put his scheme in execution, he borrowed several sums of money, and obtained goods from different people to a large amount, after which he secretly decamped.

Fearing that if he came immediately to England, his place of residence would be discovered, and measures pursued for subjecting him to condign punishment for his fraudulent practices, he went to Dunkirk in France, and there opened a coffee-house for the entertainment of English travellers. Here he renewed his practice of dealing in contraband goods; but in a few months he, in several instances, experienced a reverse of fortune.

Several capital seizures being made of goods that he had sent to England for sale, he was driven nearly to a state of distraction, and vowed destruction to the persons with whom he had entrusted so considerable a part of his property; as thro' his want of precaution the goods had fallen into the hands of the king's officers.

Paul now shut up his house at Dunkirk, and prepared to embark for England, having previously remitted a small sum to each of the persons he had defrauded in the Isle of Man; and as they accepted of payment in part, they destroyed every legal idea of felony, and constituted their respective claims into mere matters of debt; he was therefore no longer under apprehension of prosecutions under the criminal laws.

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Our hero took shipping for Edinburgh, whence he proceeded by land to Newcastle, where he met with two of the persons, from whom a part of his effects had been a short time before seized by the Custom-house officers. He attacked the men in the most grossly insulting terms, upbraiding them of treachery and cowardice: they resented his ill language, on which he drew his hanger, and threatened to put them both to instant death: in consequence hereof, one of the men challenged him to single combat; and small swords and pistols being procured, they met in about two hours in a field upwards of a mile from the town. When the antagonists came within sight of each other, they almost, at the same instant, fired their pistols in the air, and drawing their swords, a desperate contest ensued, in which great dexterity was displayed on both sides; but the warmth of Paul's temper exposed him to the assaults of his adversary, who wounded him in three places, and he fell to the ground, where, through the great loss of blood, he lay more than half an hour without the least signs of sensibility: but his wounds being bound up, he was conveyed to the nearest inn, and in about a fortnight he was perfectly recovered.

Paul now went to Rochester, in Kent, in order to solicit payment for some smuggled goods which a tradesman of that town had bought of him about nine months before. Having succeeded in that business, he rode on horse-back to Chatham, and came to London in the tide-coach.

Paul hired a lodging in Mercer's-street, Long-acre, where he had not resided many weeks before he debauched his landlady's daughter, who

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removed with him to Tottenham-court-road : but in about three months he deserted her, and she became a common prostitute, in which station she continued near seven years, when a dangerous fit of sickness struck her mind with a conviction of the heinous course of life she had led, and she determined on a reformation of her conduct. We are happy to add, that she adhered to her resolution, and that she was about three years ago reputably married, and now lives in a village adjacent to London, in a most perfect state of conjugal felicity.

Paul now engaged in a criminal intercourse with the mistress of a notorious brothel in the neighbourhood of Covent-garden, who assumed his name, and passed under the character of his wife. Among the dissolute company that frequented the house, frequent riots happened, so that Paul had many occasions to exert his prowess; and he was of so dauntless a spirit, and so expert in the *Broughtonian* art, that he acquired the reputation of being the most desperate, and otherwise accomplished hero, among the honourable fraternity of bawdy-house bullies.

The woman of the house being seized with a fit of apoplexy, expired; she died while he was examining some accounts in a small parlour, adjoining to her bed room. He no sooner discovered her situation, than he searched her pockets, and taking her keys, secreted all her ready money, and some other valuable effects, amounting in the whole to about two hundred pounds; and having alarmed the servants, he absconded with his booty.

Paul

Paul now conceived a violent attachment to gambling: but being by no means an expert practitioner in this science, he, in about six months, found that his whole stock of wealth amounted to no more than one hundred and seven pounds. Still he continued to frequent billiard tables, and other places of gaming; and his unfair practices involved him in frequent contentions; but as his desperate character was well known, people yielded often to his impositions, to avoid becoming the objects of his furious and implacable resentment.

His money being nearly exhausted, he was under great embarrassment to resolve on some probable plan of future support; for without property and associates, on whose firmness and intrepidity he could rely, it was not possible for him to renew his depredations on the seas.

However, he obtained a few guineas, and engaged with a party of smugglers; but while he remained with these robbers, he obtained but little advantage. He then found means to procure the command of a piratical vessel; and after some depredations committed on the trading ships of these kingdoms, he went to the coast of Spain, and made capture of a rich vessel bound to the port of Ferrol. Paul intended to carry this prize to Genoa, but two days after her capture she struck on a rock, and sunk with all her cargo: four of the men were drowned, but the rest were taken up by a Danish vessel.

Soon after Paul's return to England, the fatal dissensions commenced with America; and when it became evident that hostilities would ensue, he

wrote to the leaders of the opposition to the sovereignty of Great Britain, offering them his service; and from time to time communicating such intelligence as he could obtain. Money was at different times remitted to him, and he received an invitation to cross the Atlantic, with which he complied. Immediately upon his arrival, he was examined by several persons, who are now members of the Congress, respecting the coasts of England, Scotland, and Ireland. His intelligence was considered of so much importance, that great distinction was paid to him by the leaders of the American opposition; and he was appointed to the command of one of the privateers fitted out against this country.

Our hero, who had now, on account of the abominable notoriety of his character, changed his name from John Paul, to Paul Jones, sailed from Boston with a crew of picked men, and in a short time he made prizes of several of our merchantmen.

His success greatly exalted him in the opinion of the Congress, who were so entirely satisfied with his conduct, that they imposed no commands on him, but left him to act according to his own discretion: and in this their policy is very conspicuous; for he proved a far greater annoyance to our trade, than any other commander in the service of America.

Having obtained the command of a vessel of greater force, he cruized several months in search of our privateers, several of which he either captured or destroyed.

About two years and a half ago, Jones sailed from

from America, with a small squadron under his command, and visited several parts of the English coast, with a view of learning the then disposition of the naval force of this kingdom. He afterwards went to the coast of Scotland, and effected a landing on the estate of the Earl of Selkirk, whose house he plundered of valuable effects to a considerable amount : but fortunately he failed in the principal object of this design, which was to seize the person of the Earl, who, in all probability, he meant to put to death. It will be recollected, that in the preceding part of this work, we mentioned, that when Jones was a labourer under his father, in the Earl's service, his insolence provoked his noble employer to strike him : and hence his enmity against his former patron, with whom his father lived in the capacity of gardener, till within a short time of the iniquitous attempt against the safety of the Earl's person. This circumstance is a strong proof of the implacably revengeful spirit of Jones, which the slightest provocation has been ever sufficient to inflame with unextinguishable fury.

Jones now attempted to set fire to the town of Whitehaven; but this attempt was fortunately rendered abortive. He then proceeded to different parts of the English, Scotch, and Irish coasts, and committed great havoc among the shipping ; and among the number of his captures, was the Drake sloop of war.

Soon after the conclusion of the treaty between France and the American Congress, Jones received a commission from the court of Versailles, authorising him to make reprisals on the shipping
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of Great Britain. After receiving his commission from the court of France, he attempted a great number of enterprizes, and succeeded in many of them: but we shall recite the particulars of those of latter date only, they having been attended with circumstances more remarkable than the preceding.

After his first sailing from l'Orient on his late expedition, a scheme was formed by a number of the seamen to take the ship from him, and pilot her to England, when an Irishman on board discovered the plot. The men were all called over, and charged with it, but denied any concern in, or knowledge of it. The informer was then put in irons; but Jones relied so much on the man's assertion, that he returned to l'Orient, had all the people ordered on shore, and, on a more strict examination, upwards of ninety were dismissed for refusing to swear allegiance to the Congress.

About the middle of August last, Paul Jones, with the squadron under his command, consisting of the *Bon Homme Richard*, of 40 guns, and 375 men; the *Alliance*, of 36 guns; the *Monsieur*, of 36 guns; the *Pallas*, of 32 guns; the *Vengeance* brig, of 12 guns; the *Granville*, of 12 guns; and a cutter, of 18 guns, appeared off Bantry, in the County of Kerry, in Ireland. This squadron was supposed to be the combined fleets of France and Spain, and the whole country was thrown into a most terrible alarm; which, however, subsided when the number of ships was estimated.

Jones ordered a considerable number of his men to land, and they conveyed on board the ships a
supply

supply of water, and a considerable number of oxen, sheep, hogs, and poultry; but for these, Jones liberally paid the owners. He now weighed anchor, and sailed in pursuit of some linen ships, and East Indiamen, which latter were expected to touch at Corke.

The latter end of August, Jones was for several days hovering on the coast of Ireland, where he made prize of the *Mayflower*, bound from Limerick to London. He still remained on the coast, expecting a reinforcement from Brest, on the arrival of which, he intended to enter the river Shannon, and seize the East Indiamen laying there; but the appearance of the fleet under Sir John Lockhart Ross, prevented the intended junction.

In a few days after the capture of the *Mayflower*, he took the *Porcupine*, from Limerick, bound to Bristol; and then he proceeded into Bantry Bay, where he removed into the ships of his own squadron, the most valuable effects of five prizes that he had lately taken.

It should be here observed, that one object of our hero's expedition on the coast of Ireland, was to intercept the victuallers from Corke to North America, during a cruize of six or seven weeks; after which he was to proceed to the protection of the American trade in Chesapeak Bay, and on the coasts of Carolina and Georgia.

While Jones remained in the Irish seas, a letter from Valencia, in the county of Kerry, dated August 23, 1779, was transmitted to Mr. John Connel, merchant at Corke, by Mr. Peter Burrell, containing the affidavit of seven men who had
escaped

escaped from Jones's squadron, setting forth, that he had been furnished at one of the French seaports, with ammunition and combustibles for the ships above-mentioned, but that his destination was kept a profound secret. The letter adds, that fourteen men were dispatched in search of the refugees, but without effect.

It being supposed that an enemy was on the coast, the red flag was hoisted on Scarborough castle, on Wednesday the 22d of September, and the Cumberland militia, which was quartered there, immediately beat to arms, and from the houses on shore, a sea-fight was plainly discernible on the following day; the action was so severe that the firing could not be counted. On the Friday, six sail was discovered about two leagues from shore, in a most shattered condition. This engagement was between Paul Jones's squadron, and the Serapis and Countess of Scarborough armed ships. On the 26th, eight British ships of war appeared off Scarborough, and sailed in search of Jones. Thomas Berry, who escaped from Jones's squadron, made an affidavit to the following effect:—after reciting many of the operations of Jones, the particulars of which we have already given—That from the western coast of Ireland, they sailed to the north of Scotland, and took a vessel laden with military stores, bound to Quebec; a letter of marque from Liverpool; two other prizes, and several colliers, which latter were sunk off Whitby; that the squadron continued between the Humber and Berwick six days, and that the commander had declared his intention of making a descent on the coast of England; that on the

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preceding Tuesday, orders were given for the oars to be muffled, and the boats to be taken out; that on the following morning they were rejoined by the Alliance, off Flamborough Head; that on Thursday, an engagement took place between Jones's squadron and two English men of war, which had under their convoy the East country fleet; and that when Jones's ship was sinking, this deponent, and six other of the crew, escaped.

The above man, as well as the others who escaped, freely communicated many particulars relating to Paul Jones, to any persons whose curiosity led them to make enquiries. They said he was a man of singular intrepidity; passionate to the utmost extravagance, in the common occurrences of life, but cool, deliberate, and recollected, when engaged in action: that if his resentment was once roused, no condescension would appease his vengeance, which he would run the most desperate hazards to gratify; that he would never pardon the slightest instance of disobedience to his orders, or neglect of duty, but either by secret machinations, or open force, seldom failed to effect the destruction of defaulters in such points; that he was held in the highest estimation by the American Congress, and had received many flattering instances of favour from the most powerful people in several of the French seaports, as well as from many of the first naval commanders in France; and that he possessed a spirit that rather resembled the ferocity of a wild beast, than the noble bravery of a hero.

We shall here introduce Captain Pearson's account of the engagement, and subjoin thereto a

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copy of a paper on the same subject, written by Mr. Theophilus Smart, who escaped from Jones's ship, and transmitted to us by a gentleman who humanely afforded him an asylum in his house.

Extract of a letter from Captain Pearson, of the Serapis, to the Secretary of the Admiralty, taken from the London Gazette.

“ In consequence of information from the Bailiff of Scarborough, that an enemy was on the coast, I made the necessary dispositions for action, and having gained sight of the Squadron about one o'clock, threw out a signal for the Countess of Scarborough to come up, which was punctually obeyed, and for the convoy to make the best of their way. At about twenty minutes past seven, the largest of the three ships in sight, brought to; I hailed him, and asked “ what ship ? ” they answered, “ the Princess Royal.” After some other evasive answers, I threatened to fire, on which they discharged a shot; and to this I instantly returned a broadside. After exchanging two or three broadsides, he attempted to board us, but being repulsed, he put his helm a weather, and laid us athwart hawse; his mizen shrouds taking our jib-boom, which giving way, we dropped along side, so close, that the muzzles of our guns touched each other's sides. In this situation we were engaged from half past eight till half past ten. From the combustible matter which they threw into us, we were on fire ten or twelve times. During the action, the largest frigate kept sailing round us, raking us fore and aft; she killed or wounded almost every man on the quarter and
main

main decks. A hand grenade being thrown by the enemy, a cartridge took fire, which communicating to other cartridges, all the officers and men quartered abaft the main mast, were blown up, and the greatest part of our guns rendered useless. At ten the enemy called for quarters, and said they had struck. After repeatedly asking the Captain, if he called for quarters, and receiving no answer, I ordered my men to board; but they perceived a number of armed men under cover, on which they retreated, and we continued the action till the frigate poured in a broadside; and not being able to bring a gun to bear, and our main mast going by the board, I struck to the *Bon Homme Richard*, of 40 guns, commanded by Paul Jones, and upon being conducted on board his ship, I found he had 306 men killed and wounded. The next day the *Bon Home* sunk, *with most of her wounded men on board*. Captain Piercy, of the *Countess of Scarborough*, who yielded to the *Pallas* and another frigate, and myself, are now prisoners in the *Texel*, and are refused permission to wait on Sir Joseph Yorke, or even to go on shore."

Account of the above engagement, written by Mr. Theophilus Smart.

"On the 23d of September, a part of the squadron under the command of Commodore Paul Jones, consisting of the *Bon Homme Richard*, and the *Pallas* and *Alliance* frigates, and an armed brig, being close in with *Scarborough*, the *Baltic* fleet, of whose motions we had received previous intelligence, was discovered, and a signal was

made to chace; presently after which we discovered that the ships were escorted by two armed vessels. About half past five o'clock, with a light breeze at S.S.W. we bore down upon the enemy, who laid their heads in shore, with a view, as we supposed, to prevent our gaining a station between them and the fleet; and this, indeed, they effected to our great mortification. About a quarter past seven, our Commodore's ship brought to on the larboard bow of the enemy, and within musket shot. The English man of war now hailed us, to which some equivocating answers were given, only to gain a few minutes time, that some necessary matters might be adjusted, which being effected, we fired a shot, and almost instantly received a broadside. This was returned; and after two or three other salutes of the same kind on each side, we found that great havoc had been made among our men, that great damage had been sustained in our standing and running rigging, and that our hull had been perforated by a shot below water.

"Our Captain ordered the topsails to be backed, and finding himself in so dangerous a situation, seemed to be inspired with a kind of desperate boldness, and declared, that as he was still able to throw out grappling irons, the enemy or himself, should either be sunk, or both be blown out of the water. We now dropped upon the enemy's quarter, within pistol shot, put our helm a-weather, and running them on board the weather quarter, attempted to affect a boarding; but failing this we again backed our sails.

"Observing that the enemy had backed his topsails,

topails, and was preparing to come square with us again, we put our helm a-weather, and laid him a-thwart hawse, our mizen shrouds catching his gib-boom, which in a few minutes giving way, we came along side of each other, head and stern, our quarter being hooked by the enemy's spare anchor; and we were now so near, that a small motion of the water was sufficient to make the muzzles of our guns strike each other. In the above manner did the engagement continue for the space of two hours, during which time we discharged immense quantities of combustibles, that we were supplied with at Port l'Orient: and it was indisputably owing to the enemy's ship repeatedly taking fire, that we obtained the victory; for his hands being frequently engaged in inextinguishable flames, many of the guns were unemployed during a considerable part of the contest.

“ The other English vessel of war was engaged with the Pallas during the whole time; and our Captain fearing she would be compelled to strike, determined to put in practice a piratical stratagem, that should obtain him a complete, if not an honourable victory. He ordered the greatest part of his men to arm themselves with pistols, cutlasses, pikes, and other weapons, and to retire into places of concealment; after which he made a signal that he yielded up the victory, and demanded quarters, which the enemy was generously ready to allow, notwithstanding our unfair method of fighting. The English were boarding us, when they discovered the armed men under cover, and having made a speedy retreat to their own ship, renewed the action.

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“ Most of our guns being rendered useless, and the water pouring rapidly into our hull, our Captain called for assistance from the Alliance, who came up, and discharged a broadside upon the enemy, whose mast being now carried away, they immediately struck. During the action, our Captain shot several of his men for deserting their guns, and declared that if the rest neglected their duty, he would blow up the ship.

“ After the engagement we found six feet water in the hold ; soon after which, I, with some others effected an escape.”

Paul Jones got on board the *Serapis*, and after beating about the North Seas some days, he entered the Texel, and immediately dispatched an express to the court of France, with an account of his victory.

Though the gallant Captain Pearson, and his brave associate, Captain Piercy, were under the necessity of yielding to the superior force of the enemy, the contest they so nobly maintained, will entitle them to the warmest gratitude from their country ; for besides preserving the valuable fleet from the Baltic (which, but for their heroic behaviour, must inevitably have fallen a sacrifice to the enemy) they have disconcerted the plan of expedition formed by Paul Jones, which was to fire the shipping in our harbours, and destroy our naval stores ; and it has lately transpired, that he has tampered with some persons on the subject of setting fire to the royal docks.

By a gentlemen resident at Amsterdam, we are assured that the French Ambassador at the Hague,
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has admitted Paul Jones to several 'private conferences, and shewn him many instances of singular distinction; but the admiration which was raised among the populace by his first appearance in Holland; has greatly abated, in consequence of his own sailors having propagated many instances of the savage barbarity of his disposition; while they revere the characters of the English Captains Pearson and Piercy, who fought with all the bravery and noble ardour of true heroism, and prudently declined the contest, when no probability remained of obtaining a conquest over so superior a power.

The conduct of the Captains Pearson and Piercy, has been warily applauded by his Majesty, who has been pleased to intimate that it will afford him an uncommon share of happiness, when an opportunity offers of conferring some signal honours upon the brave commanders, in testimony of his approbation of their highly meritorious conduct.

The Royal Exchange Assurance Company, who had made insurances to a very large amount on the Baltic fleet, have given orders for a piece of plate of an hundred guineas value, and another of fifty guineas; the first to be presented to Captain Pearson, and the other to Captain Piercy, as an acknowledgment of their gratitude for the singular bravery and good conduct they exerted, and the noble sacrifice they made in preserving the Baltic fleet under their convoy, from falling into the hands of the enemy. And we are happy to add, that other companies, who had made insurances on the same ships, have signified that they mean to follow the above example.

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The day after his landing, Paul Jones appeared on the 'Change at Amsterdam, dressed very similar to the naval uniform of this country. So greatly did this desperado excite public curiosity, that total stagnation was put to the business among the traders, and he was followed through the streets by immense crouds of people, who complimented him with loud acclamations on account of his hard-won victory.

A memorial has been presented by Sir Joseph Yorke, to the States General, representing, that a subject of Great Britain, had arrived at the Texel with two ships of war belonging to the King, and requesting, that the sick and wounded may be conveyed on shore, and have every necessary assistance afforded them; and that the ships may be returned to his master, the King of Great Britain. An answer to the above is impatiently expected.



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